OFFICE OF CENTRAL INSPECTION PLAN REVIEW
FIRE DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Approved Route

An approved route is a 20 ft. wide road constructed of concrete or asphalt with 13 feet 6 inches overhead clearance without obstructions. The following items would be considered obstructions: the city right-of-way, street or drive approach, media, parking spaces, or building.

Fire Apparatus Access Roads

Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road shall extend within 150 ft. of all portions of the facility or any portion of the exterior wall of the first story of the building as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility. If the facility or building is equipped with an approved automatic sprinkler system, the fire apparatus access road shall extend within 200 ft. of all portions of the facility or any portion of the exterior wall of the first story of the building as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches. The fire apparatus access roads shall be constructed of asphalt or concrete. Dead-end apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet in length shall be provided with an approved area for turning around fire apparatus. The turnaround shall be either a 50-foot radius oval or a hammerhead 20 foot wide at the neck and T, with 17 degree to 23-degree radius at the T, and 92 foot in length at the T.

Gates

A vehicle gate or access gate shall provide not less than 20 foot of clear unobstructed access. The access gates if installed in apartment dwelling complex gated communities shall be provided with an SOS (Siren Operated Sensor). If the gated access is to occupancies other than those listed above with mechanical operated gates and uses a keypad, the last three digits of the pad shall be 911; the first digits shall be listed as 1. Once the keypad has been installed, it is required that the installer contacts the Wichita Fire Prevention Department to test the system. Access gates, which are not mechanical, see Key Boxes & Padlocks. ;

Key Boxes & Padlocks

Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes, the code official is authorized to require a key box or padlock to be installed in an accessible location. The key box and padlock shall be from the Knox Company. The Authorization/Order Form for the key box and padlock can be obtained from the Wichita Fire Prevention Department.

Fire Hydrant Systems

Where the most remote part of the facility or building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 400 feet from a hydrant on a fire apparatus access road as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains shall be provided where required by the code official. Where the most remote part of the facility or building equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 500 feet from a hydrant on a fire apparatus access road as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains shall be provided where required by the code official. A fire department connection to the automatic sprinkler system shall locate within 150 feet of on-site fire hydrants and mains. A 40-foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants except as otherwise required or approved. Where fire hydrants are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, they shall be protected by guard posts or other approved means.

Battery Systems

Stationary lead-acid battery systems having a liquid capacity of more than 100 gallons used for facility standby power, emergency power or uninterrupted power supplies shall meet the below requirements. Batteries shall be provided with safety venting caps. In other than Group A, E, I, and R Occupancies, battery systems shall be located in a room separated from other portions of the building by a minimum one-hour fire-resistive occupancy separation. In Groups A, E, I, and R Occupancies, battery systems shall be located in a room separated from other portions of the building by a two-hour fire-resistive occupancy separation. Each rack of batteries, or group of racks shall be provided with a liquid-tight 4-inch spill-control barrier, which extends at least 1 inch beyond the battery rack in all directions. An approved method to neutralize spilled electrolyte shall be provided. The method shall be capable of neutralizing a spill from the largest lead-acid battery to a pH between 7.0 and 9.0. Ventilation shall be provided in accordance with the International Mechanical Code and the following:

1.) The ventilation system shall be designed to limit the maximum concentration of hydrogen to 1.0 percent of the total volume of the room in accordance with nationally recognized standards, or

2.) Continuous ventilation shall be provided at a rate of not less than 1 cubic foot per minute per square foot of floor area of the room.

Doors into rooms or buildings containing stationary lead-acid battery system shall be provided with approved signs. The signs shall state that the room contains lead-acid battery systems, that the battery room contains energized electrical circuits and that the battery electrolyte solutions are corrosive liquids. An approved automatic smoke detection system shall be installed in such areas and supervised by an approved central, proprietary or remote station service or a local alarm which will give an audible signal at a constantly attended location.

Fire Extinguishers

A light hazard shall be equipped with a 2A-10BC rated fire extinguisher every 75 feet of travel distance. A medium hazard shall be equipped with a 2A-20BC rated fire extinguisher every 50 feet of travel distance. A high hazard shall be equipped with a 4A-40BC rated fire extinguisher every 30 feet of travel distance. A commercial kitchen shall be equipped with K rated fire extinguisher within 30 ft. of the cooking equipment.

Medical Gas Systems

Compressed gases at hospitals and similar facilities intended for inhalation or sedation including, but not limited to, analgesia systems for dentistry, podiatry, veterinary and similar uses shall meet the below requirements. Medical gases shall be stored in areas dedicated to the storage of such gases without other storage or uses. When containers of medical gases in quantities greater than the permit amount are located inside buildings, they shall be in a one-hour exterior room, a one-hour interior room or a gas cabinet. The permit amount for compressed gases is: Inert-6, 000 c.u.f., Oxidizing-504 c.u.f., Corrosive-810 c.u.f., Toxic-810 c.u.f., and Highly Toxic-20 c.u.f. A one-hour exterior room shall be a room or enclosure separated from the rest of the building by not less than one-hour-rated fire-resistive construction. Openings between the room or enclosure and interior spaces shall be self-closing smoke-and draft-control assemblies having a fire-protection rating of not less than one hour.

Rooms shall have at least one exterior wall, which is provided with at least two vents. Each vent shall not be less than 36 inches square inches in area. One vent shall be within 6 inches of the floor and one shall be within 6 inches of the ceiling. Containers of medical gases shall be provided with at least one fire sprinkler to provide container cooling in case of fire. When an exterior wall cannot be provided for the room, automatic sprinklers shall be installed within the room. The room shall be exhausted through a duct to the exterior. Both separate streams shall be enclosed in a one-hour-rated shaft enclosure from the room to the exterior. Approved mechanical ventilation shall be in accordance with the International Mechanical Code and provided at a minimum rate of 1 cubic foot per minute per square foot of the area of the room. Gas cabinets shall be in accordance with the following:

1.) Operated at a negative pressure in relation to surrounding area,

2.) Provided with self-closing limited-access ports or noncombustible windows to give access to equipment controls. The average velocity of ventilation at the face of access ports or windows shall not be less than 20p ft. per minute with a minimum of 150 feet per minute at any point of the access port or window,

3.) Connected to an exhaust system,

4.) Provide with a self-closing door,

5.) Constructed of not less than 0.097-inch steel, and

6.) Internally sprinklered.

A certified medical gas installer meeting the requirements of N.F.P.A. 99C and A.N.S.I. 6010 shall install medical gas systems. The medical gas systems shall be designed by a licensed mechanical engineer with his or her stamp on it. An independent certifier meeting the requirements of N.F.P.A. 99C and A.N.S.I. 6030 shall conduct the final certification test of the medical gas systems. The building or fire inspector shall view the pipe for hangers, pipe markings every 20 feet and sectional pressure test of 150 p.s.i. on completed section of medical gas systems before being covered from view.

Spray Booths

When conducted in buildings used for assembly, educational, institutional or residential occupancies, spray-finishing operations shall be located in a spraying room protected with an approved automatic sprinkler system and separated vertically and horizontally from other areas in accordance with the International Building Code. In other occupancies, spray-finishing operations shall be conducted in a spray booth or spray room approved for such use. The spray booth or room shall be meeting the requirements in the Uniform Fire Code Article 45, Section 4502.2 or International Fire Code Sec. 1504.1.2.

Limited Spraying Areas

Limited spraying areas shall only be located in Group H, Division 4 Occupancies. The aggregate surface area to be sprayed shall not exceed 9 square feet. Spraying operations shall not be of a continuous nature. Positive mechanical ventilation shall be installed which provides a minimum of six complete air changes per hour. Such system shall meet the requirements of this code for handling flammable vapors. Electrical wiring within 10 feet of the floor shall be designed for Class I, Division 2 locations in accordance with the National Electrical Code.

Tanks

Aboveground and underground tanks shall meet the requirements in Uniform Fire Code Article 79, Section 7902 or International Fire Code Sec. 2206.1. Tanks used for the storage and containment of used oil shall be classified as Class III-B liquid providing no other product is being dump into the tank.

Hazardous Materials

Buildings used for the storage, dispensing, use and handling of hazardous materials shall meet the requirements of the Uniform Fire Code Article 80, Section 8001 or International Fire Code Sec. 2701.1. The Office of Central Inspection will require technical Report when large numbers of M.S.D.S. sheets and amounts of hazardous products are indicated for review.

High Piled Storage

Buildings containing combustible storage over 12 feet above the finish floor or high hazard storage over 6 feet above the finish floor will be required to meet the requirements in Uniform Fire Code Article 81, Section 8101 or International Fire Code Sec. 2301.1.

Appeals

All appeals to the above requirements can be submitted to the Chief of the Fire Prevention Division for his approval.